

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM MEDICAL WOMEN'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The following letter has been received by the chairman of the committee of arrangements of the American Medical Association convention from the president of the Medical Women's National Association:

"In accordance with the resolution of the executive committee of the Medical Women's National Association, we wish to express to you and to the members of your committee and to your staff our deep appreciation of the cordial co-operation given to us in the arrangements of our annual meeting, in securing publicity, in providing a hall, and in all ways assisting in making our gatherings a success. Accept our appreciation and sincere thanks."

ANNUAL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE, SAN FRANCISCO

October 18, 19, 20, 1923

The program of the third annual conference of the hospitals of California promises to be more interesting and cover more practical problems than even the splendid program of the Pasadena conference of 1922.

Physicians, dentists, nurses, medical social workers, architects, public health nurses, physiotherapists, members of hospital boards, supervisors, and other persons interested in hospital betterment work are sending the Hospital Betterment Service Bureau of the League for the Conservation of Public Health many constructive suggestions on subjects that should be discussed at the coming conference. The hospital betterment work of the league in California has been commended by national authorities as a model for other States to follow. At the recent national convention of the American Medical Association the scientific exhibit of the League for the Conservation of Public Health was awarded the certificate of merit for hospital betterment and better health service.

Since the Pasadena hospital conference was held last year a number of problems have developed that require common counsel and the best talent and information available for their solution.

The plan pursued so effectively in previous conventions will be followed at the October conference. Each hospital is entitled to send one official delegate representing its directorate, one representing the staff, and one representing the administration.

Program Suggestions Wanted

Program suggestions will be welcomed and should be addressed to Dr. W. E. Musgrave, chairman Hospital Betterment Service Bureau, League for the Conservation of Public Health, Balboa building, San Francisco.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The following resolution was adopted by a rising vote of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at its recent meeting held in San Francisco:

"Whereas, The annual session of the American Medical Association in San Francisco has been marked by exceeding hospitality, enthusiastic greeting, and unusual efficiency; and

"Whereas, The local committee of arrangements, under the chairmanship of Dr. William E. Musgrave, has been instrumental in the perfection of arrangements, and in the provision of meeting places and entertainment unexcelled for facility and beauty; and

"Whereas, The press of San Francisco has rendered great service to scientific medicine and to the public by the extensive space and unusual

accuracy accorded to accounts of the session; therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the House of Delegates, that the gratitude and thanks of the association be tendered to all for the success of this session, and that we reaffirm the slogan conferred on the city by a former president that 'San Francisco Knows How.'"

State Universities and Politics—Educators will view with much apprehension the statement that Governor Walton of Oklahoma has ousted several of the regents of the State University of Oklahoma, and also made conditions so uncomfortable that President Stratton D. Brooks, under whose administration the university has made excellent progress for several years, has resigned and accepted the presidency of the University of Missouri—an offer which he had recently rejected because of his deep interest in the University of Oklahoma. President Brooks had accepted the presidency of this institution, it is stated, under the definite understanding that it would be exempt from political influences, and without such freedom no state university can make satisfactory advancement. When it is subject to upheavals with each change of administration there is bound to be a constant unrest in all departments, and instead of having a constant and steady growth from the educational point of view, the institution from necessity becomes a political machine in which the merits of its faculty will depend more on their work and influence as politicians than as educators. It is difficult to secure and retain competent and self-respecting teachers under such circumstances. So far, little protest has been noted from the people of Oklahoma against the governor's action, and perhaps they do not realize the serious position in which their state university is now placed. In Texas, several years ago, when former Governor Ferguson attempted to remove President Vinson and certain regents and teachers of the University of Texas, the result to himself was disastrous. So great was the furor that arose from educators throughout the state that he was promptly impeached by the legislature and suspended from office. So prompt and decisive was the reaction that any future governor of Texas will indeed be brave who makes a similar attempt. It is high time that all our state universities should be left free to develop as educational institutions, unhampered by interference from politicians.—*Jour. A. M. A.*, June 9, 1923.

Skin Preparation in Hypodermic Needle Punctures—C. E. Tennant, Denver (*Journal A. M. A.*, April 14, 1923), describes the use of alcohol for disinfection of the skin in preparation for the use of the hypodermic needle. First, alcohol for commercial use, and even for hospital administration, is not what it was before the Volstead Act went into effect. Second, alcohol rubbed over the skin causes no discoloration; hence there is no target or landmark apparent to which the point of the needle may be directed in order to come well within the so-called sterilized bacteria-fixed area. Under such conditions, no doubt, it frequently happens that the hypodermic needle is plunged into an altogether unprepared spot. Consequently, although the technic of hypodermic syringe and solution sterilization may be ever so carefully executed, the unexpected happens, since the needle, passing through an unclean area, may carry with it whatever is lodged on the skin. The use of iodine as the agent best adapted to skin preparation has been universally accepted, and why alcohol is permitted, or recognized as equally effective when applied to hypodermoclysis, or the administration of drugs by hypodermic needle, Tennant says, is beyond comprehension, especially since the commercial forms of alcohol are generally used. Tennant reports a case of gas bacillus infection at the site of hypodermic puncture.